



# The Transformer

## Get the Word Out! Transformation is Coming

We need your help! Our "road show" is fast approaching and we want you, our champions, to get the word out regarding Missouri Mental Health Transformation. Public input meetings are scheduled for [August](#) and [September](#). Please contact your local media, community leaders, providers, consumer & family members and other key stakeholders to encourage attendance at the public meeting scheduled near your community. If possible, arrange transportation for those who may need it. We know Transformation happens locally. Help us to ensure that your community is well represented.

## Wear Your Bracelet and Show Your Support

We've distributed 5,000 Transformation bracelets since June! We encourage everyone to wear a bracelet in the community and to the public meetings. Workgroup members received 10 bracelets to distribute this summer and we've seen them throughout the state. Keep Special thanks for distributing to such groups and events as the Governor's Council on Disability, Access to Recovery, Paula Carter Center for Minority Health at Lincoln University and the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia August 9-19. We'll have bracelets all 13 public meetings. Need more? Contact us.



## How You Can Help

- Write a Letter to the Editor to encourage citizens to attend the local meeting to learn more about Transformation.
- Post the meeting information on a community calendar.
- Contact your minister, priest, rabbi or faith leader. Ask them to discuss mental health in a sermon or service and promote the local meeting in the bulletin or newsletter.
- Call or visit local community groups such as human services organizations, medical and health providers, teachers and school personnel, volunteer organizations and consumer groups to ensure their awareness and attendance
- Ask your civic leaders and elected officials to build a "Community of Hope" and encourage them to attend the public meetings.
- Wear and distribute bracelets in your community.

## Details, Details, Details: Communications Tips, Outreach and Meeting Format

### Why Your Involvement is Important

Your local voice makes our collective efforts personal and real! Help us to:

1. Promote Mental Health Transformation as an important issue.
2. Encourage community dialogue and interest.
3. Further educate the public on mental health.
4. Start building Communities of Hope.

### Letters to the editor.

1. Be timely. Send letters or post comments a week in advance of your local Transformation meeting to promote it or immediately afterward to highlight key priorities presented.
2. Be concise and precise. There is limited space available so comments will be edited to fit available space.
3. Check your spelling and grammar before sending.
4. Include your name, home & work phone numbers and e-mail address at the end so that the newspaper or website can verify that you are the author.

### Key Stakeholder Outreach

A face-to-face conversation or brief telephone call can make a difference! Discuss Transformation with your family, neighbors, co-workers and community leaders. Help arrange transportation to the public meetings for those who need it. Key stakeholders are people who need to know about Transformation and can join us to create Communities of Hope. Everyone is a key stakeholder!

### Meeting Format

All meetings will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by making reasonable efforts to accommodate any special needs. Contact the Missouri Office of Transformation as soon as possible at 573.526.3702 with your request. Diane McFarland and Benton Goon, Co-Chairs of the Governor-appointed Transformation Working Group, will lead the public meetings. Following their 45-minute presentation, questions will be taken with up to 5 minutes devoted to each. Meetings will last approximately 90 minutes.

Key talking points and TWG priorities will be featured in next week's issue

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [transformation@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:transformation@dmh.mo.gov) or call 573.526.3702

Visit our website for more information [www.dmh.mo.gov/transformation/transformation.htm](http://www.dmh.mo.gov/transformation/transformation.htm)